

Appl. No. 09/926,438
Amdt. dated June 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 18, 2005

II. Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-22 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that a certified copy of the priority Canadian application number 2,299,824 had not been filed. The Applicant has now submitted a certified copy of the priority application.

The Applicant also notes the provisional rejection of as-filed claims 1-8 under obviousness-type double patenting. The Applicant requests reconsideration of this provisional rejection in view of presented amended claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8, and new claims 9-22.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, as-filed, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over United States Patent No. 6,324,648 issued to Grantges ("Grantges"). Applicant asks that the Examiner reconsider this rejection in view of the claim amendments and the remarks presented below.

System claim 1 has been amended to recite: A network resource control system for facilitating communication between a network terminal and a selected network resource device over a network for communication of translated source data from the network terminal to the network resource device, the network resource control system comprising: a resource registry including resource configuration data associated with the selected network resource device, the resource configuration data defining a user access level for a degree of communication access the network terminal is to have with the network resource device, the resource configuration data further including a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the selected network resource device, the resource driver for translating source data to produce the translated source data in a format suitable for processing by the network resource device; an authorization server in

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communication with the resource registry for receiving a request from the network terminal for communication access to the selected network resource device, the request configured to include a device identifier associated with the selected network resource device and user configuration data associated with the network terminal, the authorization server being configured for accessing the resource configuration data associated with the request device identifier to determine if the network terminal is authorized for the defined user access level based on the user configuration data and to determine if the network terminal is configured with the resource driver associated with the driver identifier.

Method claim 5 has been amended to recite: A method for facilitating communication between a network terminal and a selected network resource device over a network for communication of translated source data from the network terminal to the network resource device, the method comprising the steps of: providing a resource registry including resource configuration data associated with the network resource device, the resource configuration data defining a user access level for a degree of communication access the network terminal is to have with the network resource device, the resource configuration data further including a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the network resource device, the resource driver for translating source data to produce the translated source data in a format suitable for processing by the network resource device; receiving a request for communication access from the network terminal to the selected network resource device, the request configured to include a device identifier associated with the selected network resource device and user configuration data associated with the network terminal; accessing the resource configuration data associated with the request device identifier to determine if the network terminal is authorized for the defined user access level based on the user configuration data; and determining if the network terminal is configured with the resource driver associated with the driver identifier.

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An example of support for amendments addressed to the nature of the network resource device can be found in paragraph [0002] of the subject application, which provides an illustrative list of computer resources "file servers, scanners, and printers", and at paragraph [0022]. An example of support for amendments addressed to the nature and function of the driver administrator module can be found at paragraphs [0037] to [0043] and at paragraph [0058] of the subject application. An example of support for amendments related to types of user access levels can be found at paragraphs [0027] through [0032]. An example of support for new claims 15 and 22 can be found at paragraph [0036].

A distinguishing feature of the invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 5, is a driver application on each network terminal for communication with a selected network resource device, the resource driver for translating source data to produce the translated source data in a format suitable for transmission and subsequent processing by the network resource device. The application executing on the network terminal can be considered a client of the network resource device (e.g. a word processing application is a client of a network printer). An authorization server determines access based upon a correspondence between the resource configuration data (e.g. "private" or "public" access) associated with the network resource device, and a configuration parameter (e.g. network address, user name) associated with the network terminal. With this arrangement, a system administrator is able to control access to a network resource by simply altering the associated resource configuration data. Further, with this arrangement, a user of a network terminal (when properly configured by the authorization server) is able to communicate directly with a selected network resource, without having to pass through an intermediate access server.

Grantges teaches a computer system 20 that provides authenticated access from a client computer over an insecure, public network to one of a plurality of authorized applications hosted by destination servers on a private, secure network. This authorized access is done through use of a digital certificate. Initially, user 18 of client computer 22 enters the destination URL into a web

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browser portion of client computer 22. The web browser then issues an HTTP request across insecure network 26, which is routed to proxy server 34. The user receives a "pop-up" message regarding establishment of the secure network connection. A user-selected digital certificate is then sent to proxy server 34. A first level authentication is conducted, outside the firewall, by proxy server 34. If authenticated at this level, proxy server 34 then sends the information contained in the client's digital certificate through firewall system 32 to gateway 38 to be authenticated at a second that involves examining the particulars of the digital certificate using the data stored on authorization server 46. If user 18 is authorized to access multiple applications, the next item after the "popup" message to be displayed to user 18 is an "options page", presenting the multiple choices. Once a particular application is selected, the next item to be displayed for user 18 is the selected application.

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the data to be transmitted is formatted so as to be suitable for processing by a network resource device, based on selection and configuration of an appropriate resource driver associated with the network resource device. The appropriately configured resource driver of the system provides for translation of the source data for eventual processing by the corresponding network resource device. Accordingly, the present invention can be directed to a formatted data/information transfer from the network terminal to the network resource device (e.g. client to server), as opposed to being a system for supporting (for example) database query communications, such that the data is retrieved from the server to the client, as is the case with the system of Grantges. Further, Grantges does not teach implementing a user access level for establishing the type of communication access a network terminal is allowed to have with a selected network resource device in the context of this type of secure unidirectional system.

In light of the above remarks, and amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that system claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by Grantges, and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection of claim 1. As amended claims 2 and 4, and new claims 9 through 15 are

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withdraw the rejection of claim 1. As amended claims 2 and 4, and new claims 9 through 15 are dependent on, and narrower than, claim 1, the Applicant similarly submits that these claims are novel and inventive over the cited art. Similarly, the Applicant submits that method claim 5 is neither taught nor suggested by Grantges, and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection of claim 5. As amended claims 6 and 8 and new claims 16 through 22 are dependent on, and narrower than, claim 5, the Applicant similarly submits that these claims are novel and inventive over the cited art.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments submitted herein have placed this present application in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is requested. Further, Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the subject application by the foregoing amendments. If the Examiner has further concerns, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at 416-862-4318. All correspondence should continue to be directed to listed address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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